MangaBox

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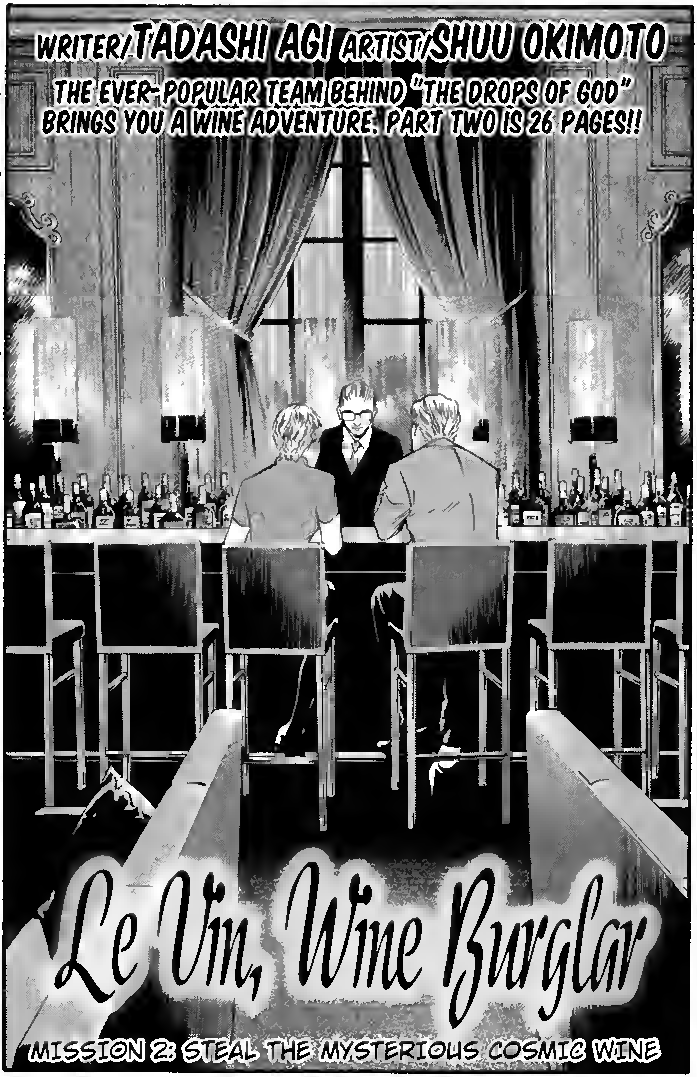
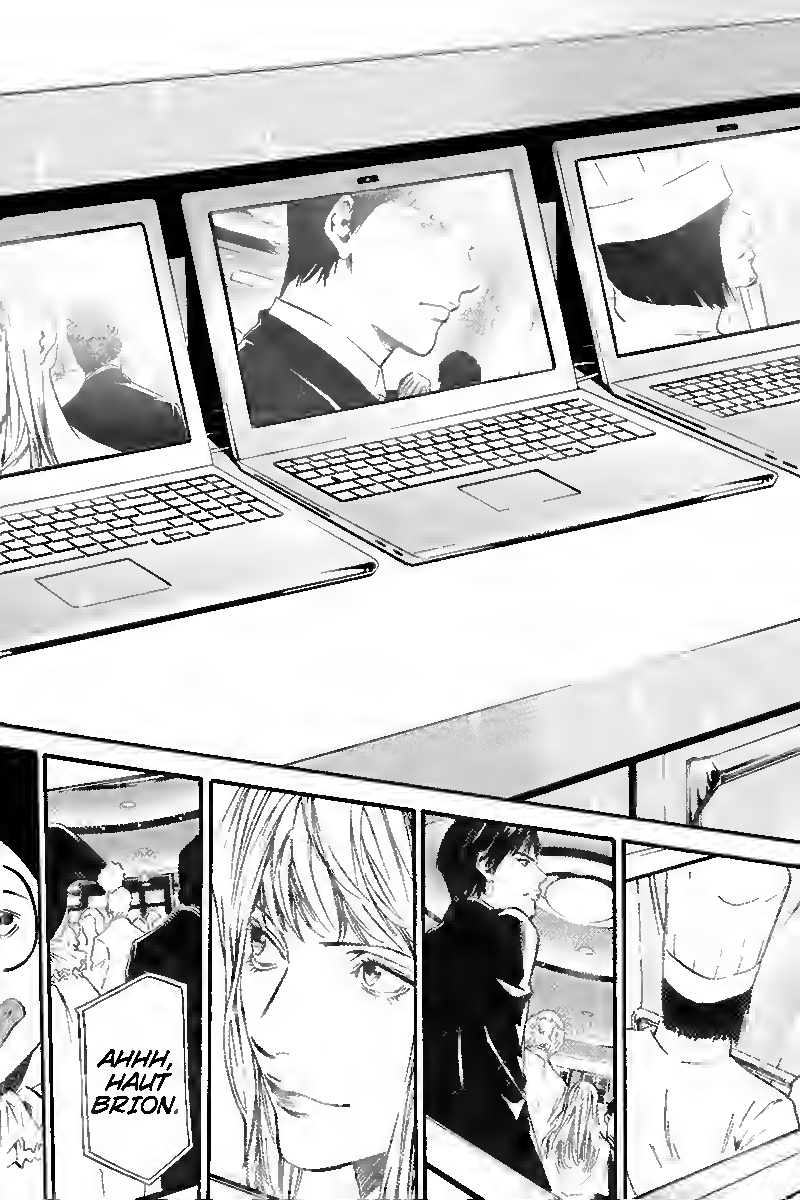

WRITER/TADASHI AGI ARTIST/SHUU OKIMOTO
THE EVER-POPULAR TEAM BEHIND "THE DROPS OF GOD" BRINGS YOU A WINE ADVENTURE. PART TWO IS 26 PAGES!!
A COUPLE SITS AT THE COUNTER, BUT THEY KNOW NOTHING OF THE TRUE FACE OF THE "SOMMELIER" IN FRONT OF THEM...
Le Vin, Wine Burglar
MISSION 2: STEAL THE MYSTERIOUS COSMIC WINE

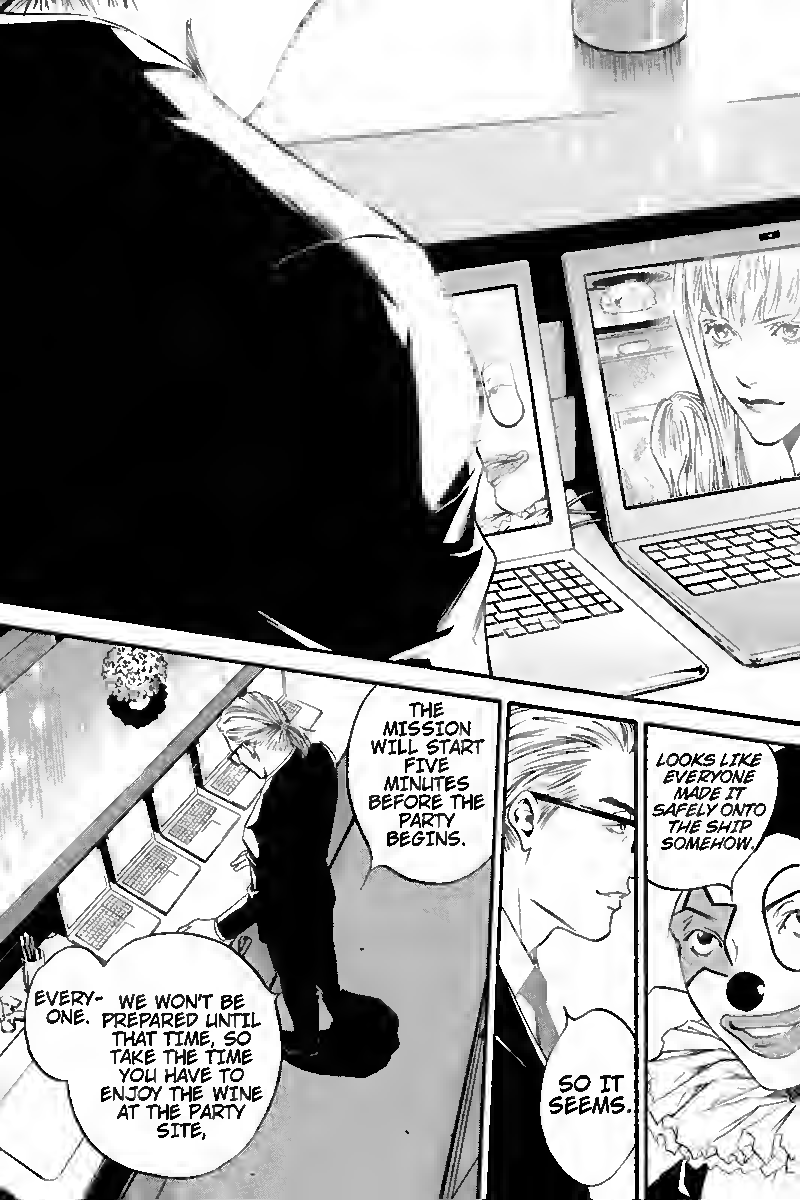
THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

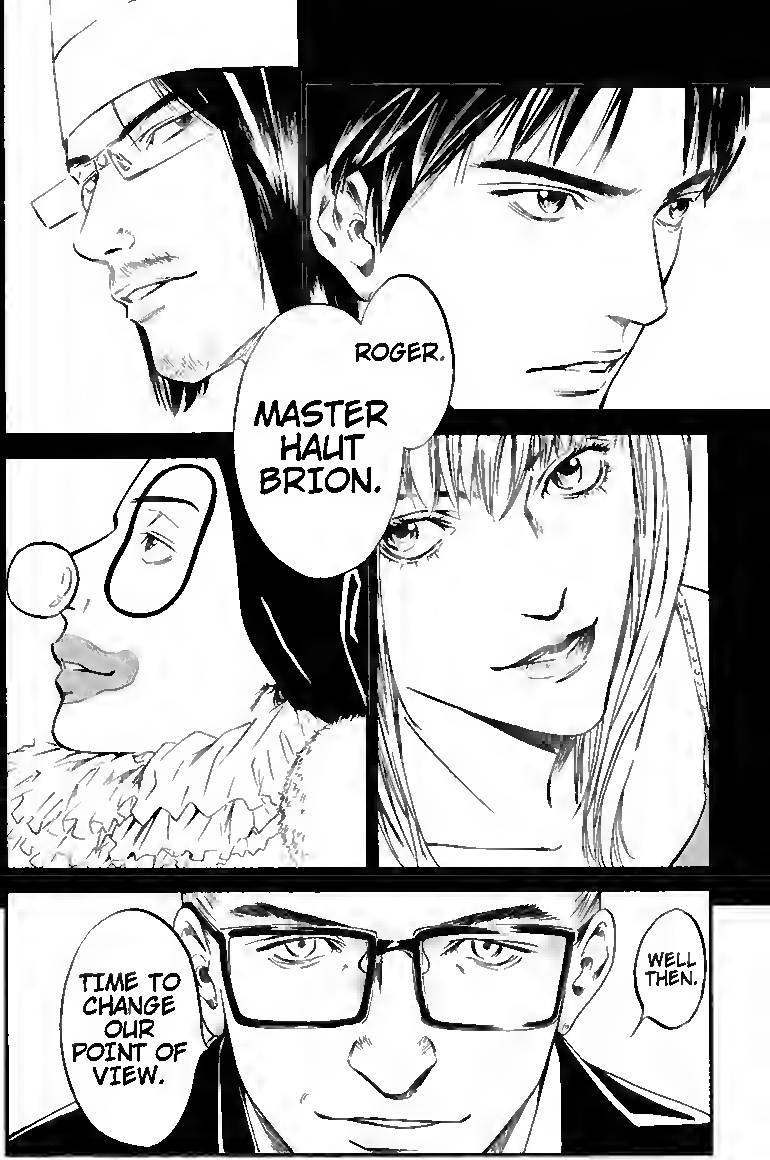
CHAMPAGNE
HENRIOT
MAISON FONDÉE EN 1808
ROSE
A REIMS FRANCE
BRUT
WHAT A LOVELY DESCRIPTION. THE NEXT?
OH HOH.
OUR SECOND BOTTLE IS ALSO AN "HENRIOT" THIS TIME THE ROSE BRUT.
THE ELEGANT SCENT AND MELLOW BODY MAKE IT A WINE...
...MUCH LIKE A BROAD-BRIMMED, PINK-ROSÉ-LINED NOBLE LADY'S HAT.
NOW THIS IS A SPECIAL BOTTLE.
IT LOOKS DELICIOUS. I WANT TO DRINK IT TOO.
WHAT'S THE LAST?

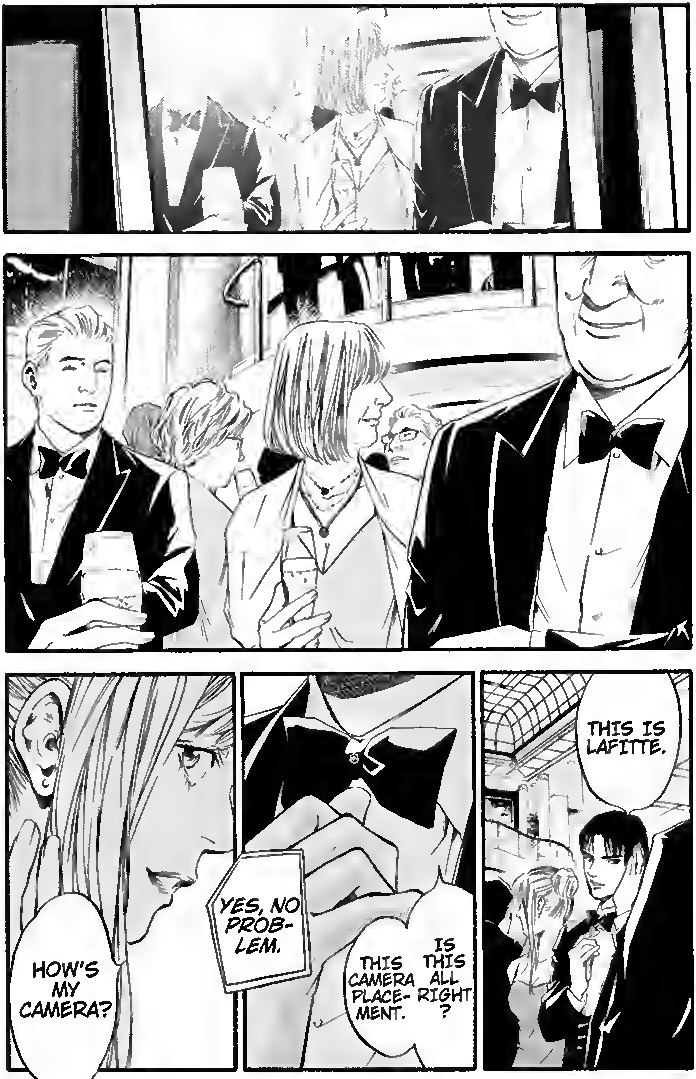
THE MAKER IS AGAIN, "HENRIOT." THIS IS THE 1998 CUVEE DES ENCHANTELEURS.
CUVEE DES ENCHANTELEURS
CHAMPAGNE
HENRIOT
1998
BRUT
PRODUIT DE FRANCE • PRODUCT OF FRANCE
IT IS A WINE LIKE A COMPLEX AND COLORFUL YET AMAZING KING'S CROWN, FESTOONED WITH JEWELS.
IT IS A CHAMPAGNE WITH THE PRESTIGE THAT ONLY COMES FROM BEING MADE IN A GOOD YEAR.
HMMM...
I WANT TO DRINK THEM ALL. NOW THAT I'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM.

THEN, LET'S START WITH THE SILK HAT, THEN GO TO THE NOBLE LADY...
...AND THEN LASTLY THE CROWN.
VERY WELL.
LOVE-LY
WE WON'T BE SLEEPING TONIGHT, IT SEEMS.
AHH...
WHAT A REFINED SCENT.
SHF
YOU ARE RIGHT.

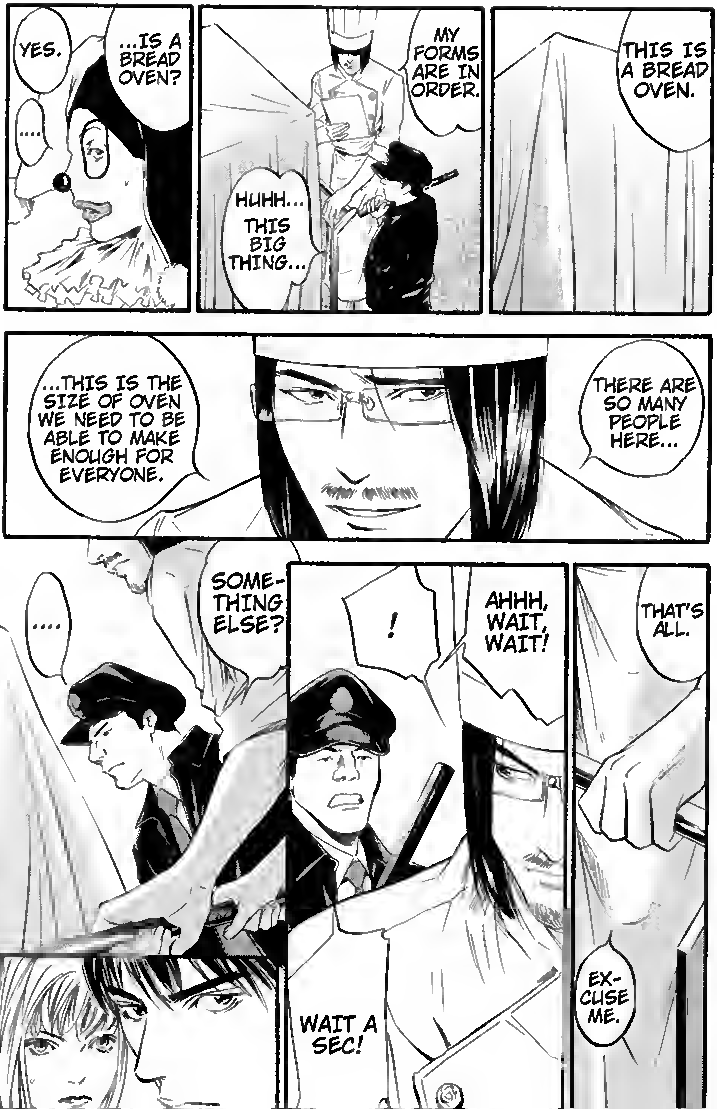

AHHH, HAUT BRION.


LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE MADE IT SAFELY ONTO THE SHIP SOMEHOW.
SO IT SEEMS.
THE MISSION WILL START FIVE MINUTES BEFORE THE PARTY BEGINS.
EVERY-ONE. WE WON'T BE PREPARED UNTIL THAT TIME, SO TAKE THE TIME YOU HAVE TO ENJOY THE WINE AT THE PARTY SITE,

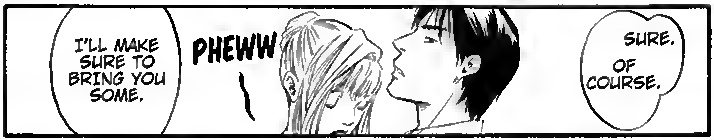

ROGER.
MASTER HAUT BRION.
WELL THEN.
TIME TO CHANGE OUR POINT OF VIEW.


THIS IS LAFITTE.
IS THIS ALL RIGHT?
THIS CAMERA PLACEMENT.
YES, NO PROBLEM.
HOW'S MY CAMERA?

OH, HAUT BRION.
YOU FLAT-TERER.
IT'S PER-FECT.
!
THOUGH I'M JUST A BIT DISAP-POINTED THAT I CAN'T SEE YOUR LOVELY DRESS.
WHAT'S THAT HUGE THING YOU'VE GOT THERE?
UM... THIS?
!

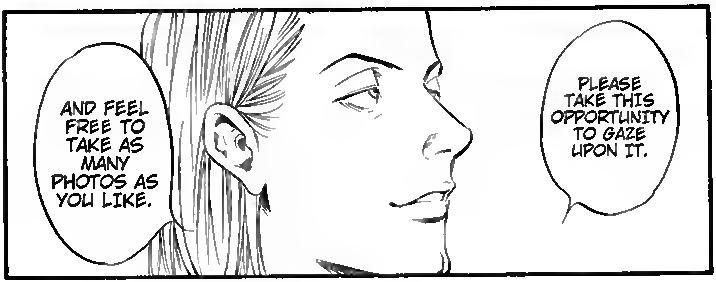

THIS IS A BREAD OVEN.
MY FORMS ARE IN ORDER.
HUHH... THIS BIG THING...
...IS A BREAD OVEN?
YES.
....
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE...
...THIS IS THE SIZE OF OVEN WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE.
THAT'S ALL.
AHHH, WAIT, WAIT!
!
SOME-THING ELSE?
....
EX-CUSE ME.
WAIT A SEC!

CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME OF THAT BREAD...
...FRESH FROM THE OVEN?
IT'S MY FAVO-RITE.

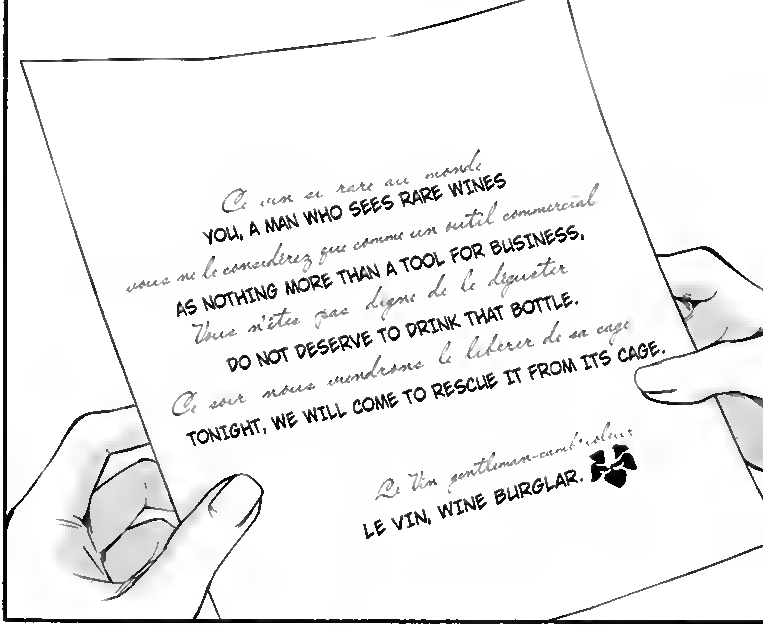

I'LL MAKE SURE TO BRING YOU SOME.
PHEWW
SURE. OF COURSE.

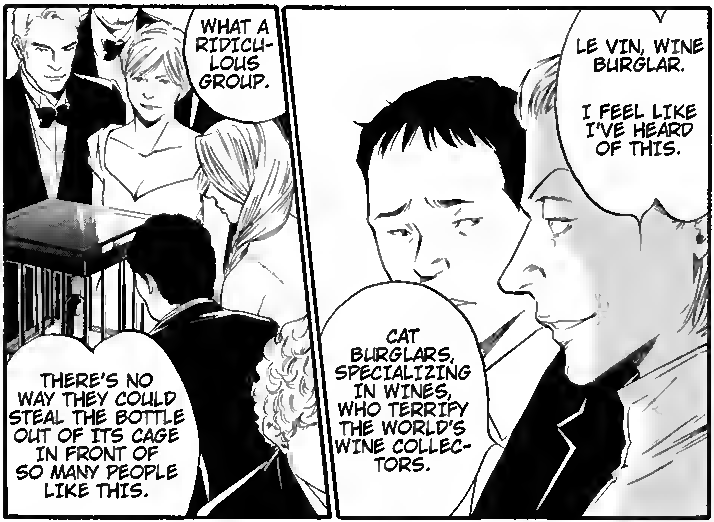
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING TO MY WINE PARTY ON THIS LOVELY BOAT.
ENJOY THE AMAZING WINE AND FOOD TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT.
IN ADDI-TION...
...WE'VE PREPARED MANY DIVER-SIONS FOR YOU.
AND IN THE CAGE IN THE CENTER DISPLAY AREA...
...YOU WILL SEE OUR MOST SPECIAL GUEST.

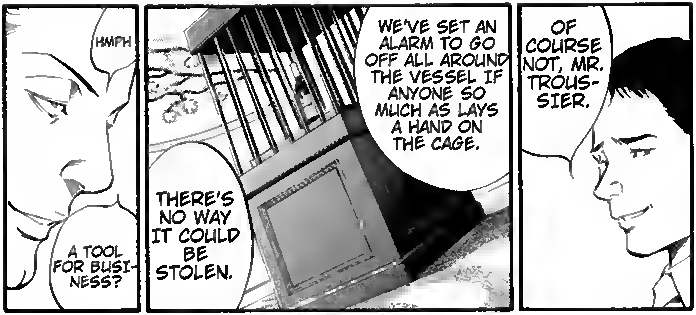
IT IS THE PRECIOUS "COSMIC WINE," ONE OF ONLY TWO BOTTLES IN THE ENTIRE WORLD.
THIS WINE ACCOMPANIED AN ASTRONAUT ON A TRIP INTO SPACE, AND THEN RETURNED HERE TO OUR EARTH.
IT IS AN INCREDIBLY RARE WINE THAT NO ONE HAS EVER DRUNK, ON DISPLAY HERE.
PAUILLAC

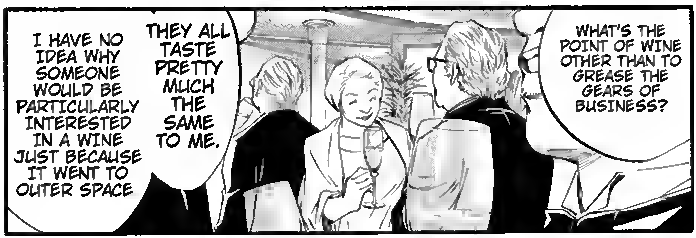

PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GAZE UPON IT.
AND FEEL FREE TO TAKE AS MANY PHOTOS AS YOU LIKE.

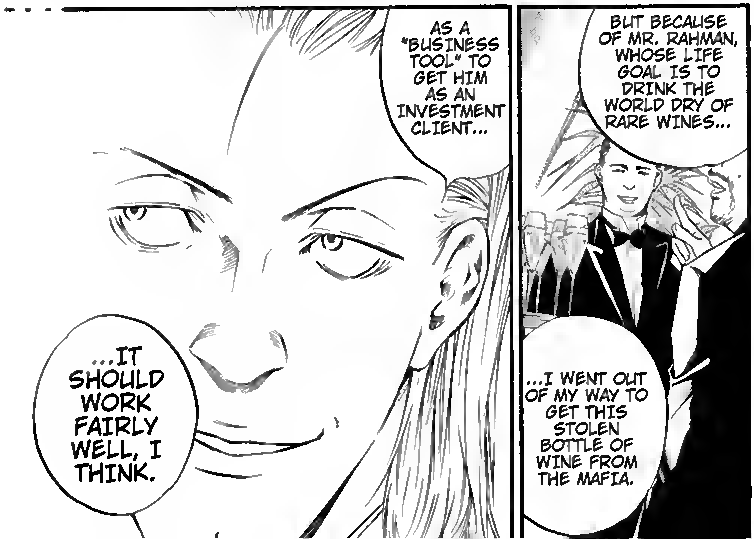
THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SEE THIS BOTTLE OF WINE.
OHH.
CAN WE DRINK IT?
NO WAY.
FOR ITS DESTINY IS TO BE POURED OUT INTO OUR GLASSES DURING A BANQUET BEING HELD TOMORROW FOR ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS.
JEEZ. HE'S JUST SHOW-ING OFF, THEN?
AHH... I WANT TO DRINK IT EVEN MORE NOW.
BUT I HEARD THERE WAS ONLY ONE BOTTLE. I HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE TWO.
FWIP
THE SECURITY IS PER-FECT, RIGHT?
YES. OF COURSE, SIR.
I'M SURE IT'S A PRANK, BUT...
!
I GOT THIS LETTER.


Ce vin est rare au monde
YOU, A MAN WHO SEES RARE WINES
vous ne le considérez que comme un outil commercial
AS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL FOR BUSINESS,
Vous n'êtes pas digne de le déguster
DO NOT DESERVE TO DRINK THAT BOTTLE.
Ce soir nous viendrons le libérer de sa cage
TONIGHT, WE WILL COME TO RESCUE IT FROM ITS CAGE.
Le Vin gentleman-cambrioleur
LE VIN, WINE BURGLAR.

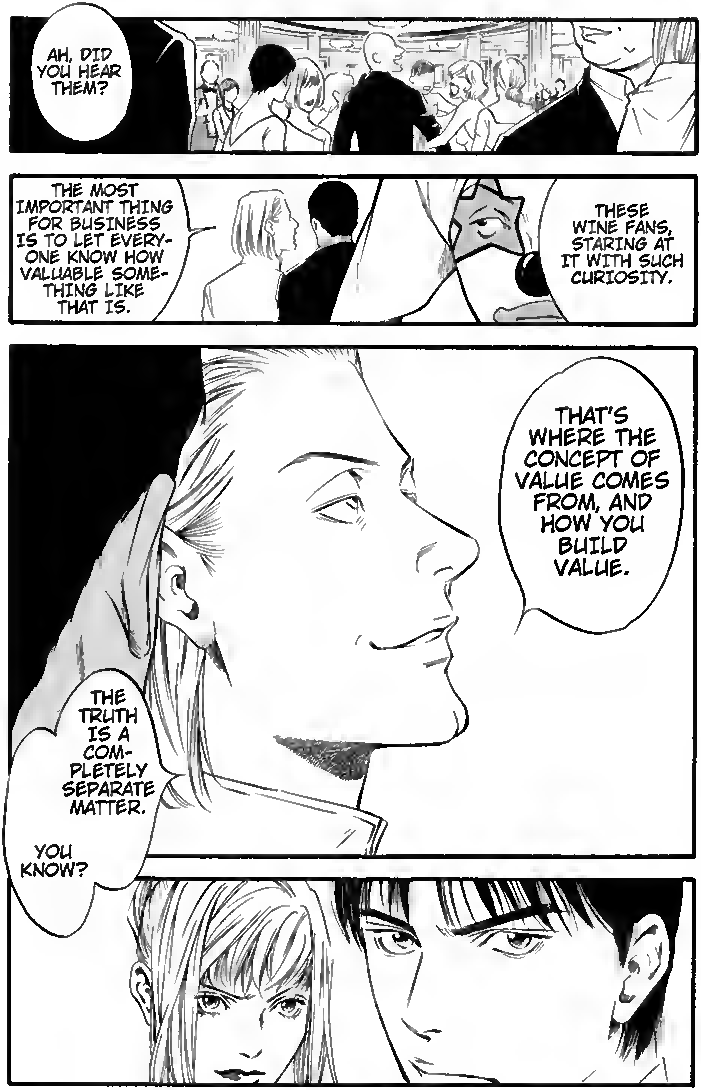

WHAT A RIDICULOUS GROUP.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD STEAL THE BOTTLE OUT OF ITS CAGE IN FRONT OF SO MANY PEOPLE LIKE THIS.
LE VIN, WINE BURGLAR.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD OF THIS.
CAT BURGLARS, SPECIALIZING IN WINES, WHO TERRIFY THE WORLD'S WINE COLLECTORS.

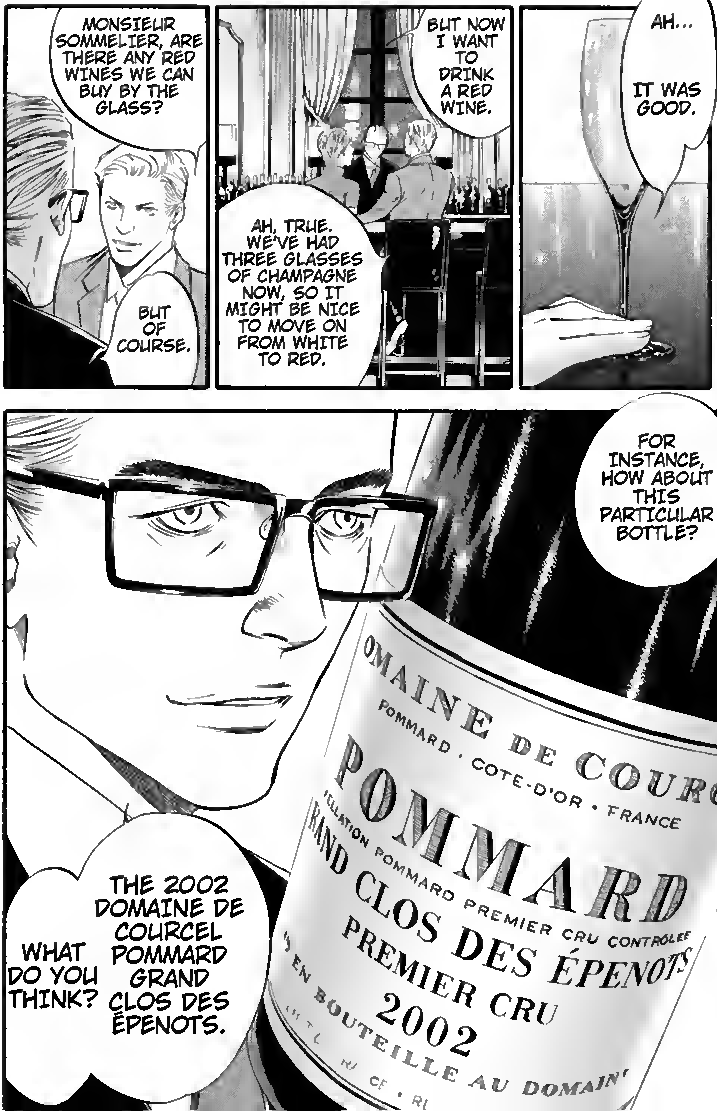

HMPH
A TOOL FOR BUSINESS?
THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD BE STOLEN.
WE'VE SET AN ALARM TO GO OFF ALL AROUND THE VESSEL IF ANYONE SO MUCH AS LAYS A HAND ON THE CAGE.
OF COURSE NOT, MR. TROUSSIER.


I HAVE NO IDEA WHY SOMEONE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN A WINE JUST BECAUSE IT WENT TO OUTER SPACE
THEY ALL TASTE PRETTY MUCH THE SAME TO ME.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF WINE OTHER THAN TO GREASE THE GEARS OF BUSINESS?


...IT SHOULD WORK FAIRLY WELL, I THINK.
AS A "BUSINESS TOOL" TO GET HIM AS AN INVESTMENT CLIENT...
BUT BECAUSE OF MR. RAHMAN, WHOSE LIFE GOAL IS TO DRINK THE WORLD DRY OF RARE WINES...
...I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO GET THIS STOLEN BOTTLE OF WINE FROM THE MAFIA.

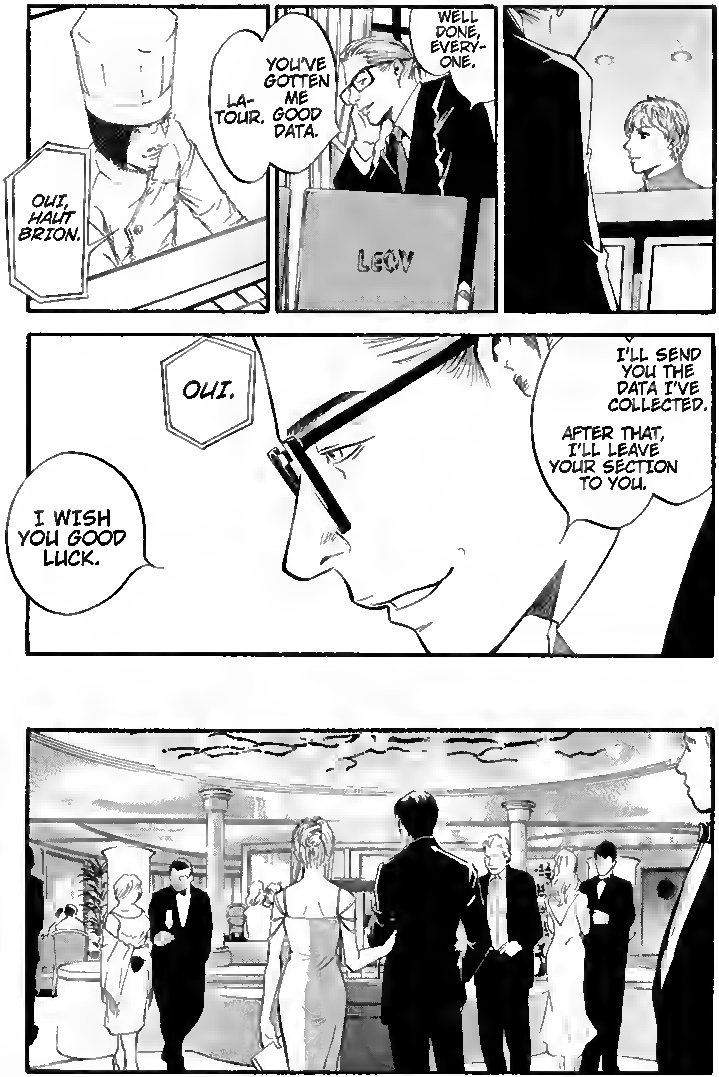
MON-SIEUR RAH-MAN.
MON-SIEUR TROUS-SIER!
I'M HONORED THAT YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF.
WHAT A GREAT PARTY!
...JUST TO GET A CHANCE TO DRINK ONE OF THE TWO BOTTLES OF SUCH A RARE WINE.
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'D GO TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH WITH GLEE...
ALL OF THEM OBSESSED AND DROOLING, SAYING "I JUST WANT ONE SIP OF IT!"
I'M SO LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
AHAHA.
AND TAKE A LOOK AT THE CROWD THAT'S GATHERED!


AH, DID YOU HEAR THEM?
THESE WINE FANS, STARING AT IT WITH SUCH CURIOSITY.
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR BUSINESS IS TO LET EVERY-ONE KNOW HOW VALUABLE SOME-THING LIKE THAT IS.
THAT'S WHERE THE CONCEPT OF VALUE COMES FROM, AND HOW YOU BUILD VALUE.
THE TRUTH IS A COM-PLETELY SEPARATE MATTER.
YOU KNOW?

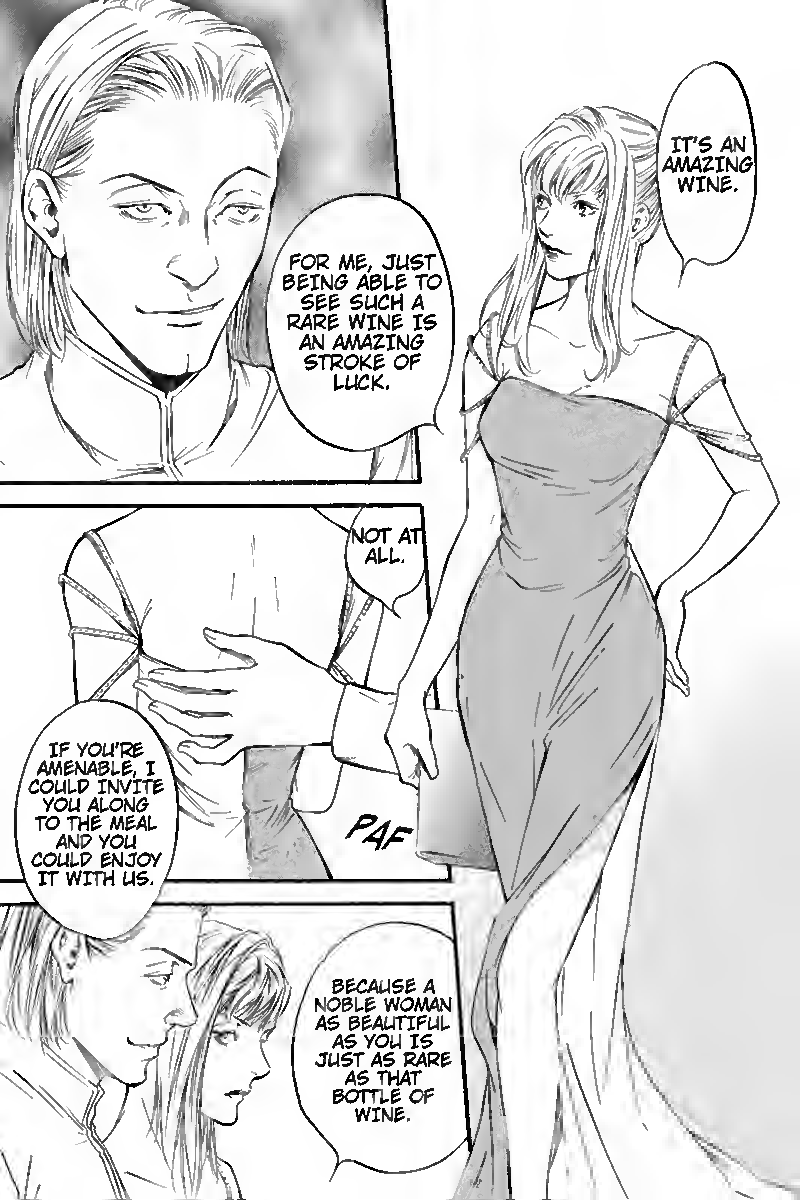

MONSIEUR SOMMELIER, ARE THERE ANY RED WINES WE CAN BUY BY THE GLASS?
BUT OF COURSE.
AH, TRUE. WE'VE HAD THREE GLASSES OF CHAMPAGNE NOW, SO IT MIGHT BE NICE TO MOVE ON FROM WHITE TO RED.
BUT NOW I WANT TO DRINK A RED WINE.
AH...
IT WAS GOOD.
FOR INSTANCE, HOW ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR BOTTLE?
DOMAINE DE COURCEL
POMMARD · COTE-D'OR · FRANCE
POMMARD
APPELLATION POMMARD PREMIER CRU CONTRÔLÉE
GRAND CLOS DES ÉPENOTS
PREMIER CRU
2002
MIS EN BOUTEILLE AU DOMAINE
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE 2002 DOMAINE DE COURCEL POMMARD GRAND CLOS DES ÉPENOTS.

OF COURSE.
THIS IS A VERY STYLISH WINE.
WELL, IF YOU RECOMMEND IT MONSIEUR SOMMELIER, THEN I TRUST YOU.
WHAT SORT OF WINE IS IT?
...NOR IS IT A SMOOTH, AGREEABLE WINE.
IT'S NOT A WINE THAT EVINCES A VERY BROAD WORLD-VIEW...
YES.
IT'S A WINE THAT PRESENTS YOU WITH A FORKED PATH.
A MAZE ...?
TO SAY IT IN ONE WORD, IT'S A MAZE OF A WINE.

IS IT BETTER TO TAKE THE RIGHT FORK OR THE LEFT FORK?
IT ASKS YOUR VERY HEART A QUESTION.
I SEE.
I'D LIKE TO TRY THAT.
GRIP
OF COURSE.
VOILÀ, MONSIEUR.


OUI, HAUT BRION.
LA-TOUR.
YOU'VE GOTTEN ME GOOD DATA.
WELL DONE, EVERY-ONE.
LEOV
OUI.
I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK.
I'LL SEND YOU THE DATA I'VE COLLECTED.
AFTER THAT, I'LL LEAVE YOUR SECTION TO YOU.

HMPH.
I SEE.
SOMEHOW I'VE STARTED TO WANT TO DRINK IT.
ME TOO.
LAFITTE.
HERE I GO.
I WISH YOU LUCK.
MON-SIEUR TROUS-SIER.
I'M CATHERINE DE CAZES.
I'M SO HONORED TO MEET YOU.
OH, OF THE CAZES FAMILY?
WEL-COME, THANK YOU FOR COMING.


IT'S AN AMAZING WINE.
FOR ME, JUST BEING ABLE TO SEE SUCH A RARE WINE IS AN AMAZING STROKE OF LUCK.
NOT AT ALL.
PAF
IF YOU'RE AMENABLE, I COULD INVITE YOU ALONG TO THE MEAL AND YOU COULD ENJOY IT WITH US.
BECAUSE A NOBLE WOMAN AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU IS JUST AS RARE AS THAT BOTTLE OF WINE.

OH MY...
Hee Hee
IDIOT.
YOU FLAT-TERER!
YOU WILL NEVER GET TO DRINK THAT WINE, EVER.
LE VIN, WINE BURGLARS, HAVE THEIR FANGS BARED AND AGAINST THE THROAT OF THE VILLAIN!
LE VIN, WINE BURGLAR, MISSION 2/ END
THE STORY CONTINUES WITH
(THE WITCH'S KISS)